

A1
2. (Amended) An apparatus for preventing abrasion of a solid catalyst and/or a solid adsorbent while treating waste water, comprising:

a packed bed of [a] the solid catalyst and/or the solid adsorbent; and

a water-permeable pressure layer having [an ability of following up] a load which can suppress a deformation of the packed bed of the solid catalyst and/or the solid adsorbent[.];

wherein said water-permeable pressure layer is provided on the packed bed of the solid catalyst and/or the solid adsorbent.

cont
3. (Amended) The apparatus according to claim 2, further comprising:

a vertical partition for [diving the] dividing a boundary area between an upper part of the packed bed and the water-permeable pressure layer into a plurality of respective segments formed in a vertical direction.

4. (Amended) The apparatus according to claim 2 [or 3.], wherein the water-permeable pressure layer has a void percentage of 20 to 70 volume percent.

5. (Amended) The apparatus according to [any one of claims] claim 2 [to 4], wherein the water-permeable pressure layer has a height of 30 to 1000 mm.

Sub B
6. (Amended) The apparatus according to [any one of claims] claim 2 [to 5], wherein the water-permeable pressure layer is [constituted of] a substance having a plurality of rigid metal or ceramic[s] particles.

Sub A1 7. (Amended) The apparatus according to claim 6, wherein [the] each particle has an average [particle] diameter of 3 to 30_mm.

Sub B1, D2 8. (Amended) The apparatus according to [any one of claims] claim *3* [to 7], wherein the respective segments formed by the vertical partition have a cross-sectional area [in a horizontal direction] of 50 to 5000_cm². *1 or 2*

B A1 cont 9. (Amended) The apparatus according to [any one of claims] claim *2* [to 8], wherein the vertical partition has a height of 20 to 300_cm in [a] the vertical direction. *1 or 2*

Sub B3 10. (Amended) The apparatus according to [any one of claims] claim 1 [to 9], further comprising:
a layer for dispersing and mitigating an upward stream of the waste water and/or a waste gas, [the] said layer being provided under the packed bed.

12. (Amended) The apparatus according to claim 10 [or 11], wherein the dispersing and mitigating layer has a void percentage of 20 to 99 volume percent.

Sub B4 13. (Amended) The apparatus according to [any one of claims] claim 10 [to 12], wherein the dispersing and mitigating layer is [constituted by] a plurality of rigid metallic or ceramic[s] particles.

14. (Amended) The apparatus according to claim 13, wherein [the] each rigid metallic or ceramic[s] particle has an average [particle] diameter of 3 to 30_mm.

A2
cont.

15. (Amended) An apparatus for preventing abrasion of a solid catalyst and/or a solid adsorbent while treating waste water, comprising:

a packed bed of [a] the solid catalyst and/or the solid adsorbent; and

a layer for dispersing and mitigating an upward stream of the waste water and/or a waste gas[,];

wherein the dispersing and mitigating layer is provided under the packed bed of the solid catalyst and/or the solid adsorbent.

17. (Amended) The apparatus according to claim 15 [or 16], wherein the dispersing and mitigating layer has a void percentage of 20 to 99 volume percent.

A3

18. (Amended) The apparatus according to [any one of claims] claim 15 [to 17], wherein the dispersing and mitigating layer is [constituted by] a substance having a plurality of rigid metallic or ceramic[s] particles.

Sub B

19. (Amended) The apparatus according to claim 18, wherein [the] each metallic or ceramic[s] particle has an average [particle] diameter of 3 to 30 mm.

20. (Amended) The apparatus according to [any one of claims] claim 1 [to 19], further comprising [used in] a wet-oxidation treatment unit.

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of this application, as presently amended and in light of the following discussion, is respectfully requested.